

Title: *Alone Together*

Dimension: 30" x 40" Oil paint, and Paper Collage on Canvas

Name: Evelyn Saleh

Nominator: Craig Dongoski

Program: Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drawing, Painting, and Printmaking

Student Contact (email): esaleh1@student.gsu.edu

Everyone knows the exciting zombie trope which seems to have invaded all categories of mainstream media recently. Apocalyptic themes have made a renaissance in pop culture which more commonly displays a character or characters surviving the thrills of an otherwise expended world. What most viewers fail to realize is that post-apocalyptic mediums return the viewer to a simpler time, a period of self-sustainability. These worlds leave characters to live without the pressures of society and focus on survival and pure unadulterated relationships. The zombie trope parallels the popularization of sustainable clothing and manufacturing. My work considers how grassroots culture and apocalyptic narratives exemplify our basic human desire for authenticity.

Antiquated items like mustaches and craft breweries revamped their popularity recently due to their authenticity. People need to experience real things; they long to feel connected to reality. Today's world is filled with fake realities such as the internet and various types of social media. Of course, living in a past era is impossible so owning things from those time periods is all one can do to feel associated with those times. Vintage things like straight razor shaving and record players were created in a time that seem more genuine to people today, and it has now blossomed into a trend to salvage a piece of it.

Alone Together shows a scene of post-apocalyptic wasteland. Instead of focusing on the ruthlessness of an unkempt world, I focus on the quiet moments of cool solitude. A man sits with his dog in an abandoned restaurant looking out at the world beyond the small procured haven. My goal is to show a peaceful side of the abandonment of society without the need of zombies or a plague to show what destruction has transpired. The piece shows only the now, a moment of the man's world. He simply sits with his companion without the need to post status updates or tweet about this phase of his existence. Simplicity is my goal, to bring people back to their origins. Solitude is needed in a time of mass bombardment of culture in everyone's world today.